Procedural simplification for Promotion of Export of Seeds and Planting material

1552. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have simplified the quarantine producers to promote export of seeds and planting materials

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have exempted export-oriented units from the requirement of obtaining import permit for mushroom spawn culture, tissue culture materials of plant origin and flower seeds ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government have extended the facility of post-entry quarantine in lieu of grow-cut tests to tubers/bulbs and seeds of flowers and ornamental plants ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the ended statement (*See* below)

(c) Export-oriented Units are exempted from the requirement of Import Permit in case of Mushroom Spawn Culture. The requirement of Import Permit has been relaxed in case of Tissue Culture Materials of Plant origin and flower seeds.

(d) The importers have been given the option to grow the bulbs/tubers in post-entry quarantine in lieu of Grow-out Tests at the port of entry.

(e) The Import Permit (IP), among others, facilitates identification of additional declarations for the freedom from certain specific pests, diseases and weeds and also advance arrangements for quick Plant Quarantine clearance at the port of entry.

Mushroom spawn culture is imported in tubes in sterile condition and is generally believed to be free from diseases. In order to ensure smooth export-oriented import and boost the export of the production, the requirement of IP has been relaxed. Similarly the Tissue Culture Materials of Plant origin are also imported in tubes in strile condition and generally believed to be free from plant diseases. Such materials are also subjected to PEQ.

Flower seeds are generally imported in small quantities without posing any problem of its screening at the port of entry.

Hence, the requirement of IP was dispensed with to facilitate import so as to enhance the export of agricultural/horticultural/floricultural items. The PEQ facility was extended to tubers/bulbs in view of inadequate warehouse and cold-storage facilities at air-ports. The importers also require such materials for immediate sowing to cope with export commitments. Hence the said facility ensures and smooth import and encourages export of floricultural items.

Statement

Simplification of Quarantine procedure for boosting up Export

The Plant Quarantine procedures have been simplified in order to ensure the supply of best quality of seeds/planting materials to the Indian farmers to increase farm incomes, productivity and export earnings, as per details below :-

(i) Issuance of Import Permits (IPs) has been decentralised. Now, IPs are being issued from Headquarters Office, Faridabad and Plant Quarantine Stations at Amritsar, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and New Delhi. Earlier, these permits were issued only from Headquarters Office, Faridabad.

(ii) The clearance period in case of seeds has been reduced from 45 days to 30—35 days and in case of bulbs/tubers from 50 days to 35—40 days.

(iii) The plants/plant meaterials requiring post-entry quarantine (PEQ) condition are released within 1—3 days and 7 days in case the laboratory tests are required at the port of entry.

(iv) Tissue culture materials are released within six hours at the port of entry.

(v) The requirement of IP in case of plants and plant materials meant for consumption and the IP & phyto-sanitary Certificates (PSCs) in case of the materials imported through foreign post channels and as accompanied baggage by Air has been done away.

(vi) The requirement of the Permit for the import of Mushroom Spawn Culture in respect of 100% Export Oriented Units has been dispensed with.

(vii) The requirement of permit for the import of Tissue Culture Materials of Plant origin and flowers has been dispensed with.

(viii) The list of the Officers in the Agriculture Department of States/Union Territories authorised to inspect/treat the plants/plant materials and to issue PSC in lieu thereof has been revised and enlarged based on the recommendations received from the States/UTs in order to extend more facilities for export certification work.

(ix) The import of True Potato Seeds (TPS) and Potato micro-tubers (in-vitro) in tubes has been allowed to general public.

Consumption of Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash Fertilizers

1553. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the consumption ratio per hectare of N/P/K (Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potash) in 1970, 1980, 1990, 1992 and 1993;

(b) the consumption of various fertilizers in 1970, 1980, 1990, 1992 and 1993 both Nutrient-wise and Produce-wise ;

(c) the recommendations of Agricultural Scientists for the use of NPK for optimum production/yield ;

(d) whether the consumption of P & K has come down after decontrol and what will its repercussion on soil for better productivity; and

(e) whether Government are aware that since 24th August, 1992 when Low Nutrient Fertilizer namely, CAN/AS/AMM, Chloride were again brought under price control, these fertilizers are being sold at premium in certain pockets; if so, what measures Government propose to take about it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The All India NPK consumption ratio for the relevant period is given in enclosed statement (*see* below) :

(b) The nutrient-wise fertilizer consumption for the relevant period is given in enclosed statement *see* below. The product-wise consumption statistics is maintained only since 1988—1989. The information is, therefore, given for the year 1988-89 onwards enclosed statement III. (*see* below).

(c) On an overall national average basis, a NPK consumption ratio of 4 : 2 : 1 is considered desirable.

The recommendation for fertilizer use varied from crop to crop and soil to soil. State Governments make generalised fertilizer recommendation for different crops in their States. Specific recommendation for fertilizer use by an individual farmer is required to be made based on analysis of the soil of his farm.

(d) There is a declining trend in consumption of P & K fertilizers after decontrol. On long term basis, the declining trend can affect the productivity adversely. Efforts are being made to popularise the use of chemical fertilizers in combination with organic manures and bio-fertilizers so that consumption of nutrients increases and the possible decline in productivity is arrested.

(e) There are no specific reports received in the Ministry regarding low analysis fertilizers being sold at premium prices. However, the State Governments, who monitor the price at field level, are periodically cautioned to be vigilant against such eventuality.